GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1067
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2007
MALNUTRITION IN TRIBAL AREAS
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Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the areas of tribal habitation of the country have been covered under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the malnutrition in the Tribal areas of the country is widespread; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY)

(a)&(b) It is one of the mandates under the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government to provide a functional Anganwadi Centre(AWC) in every settlement/habitation. To fulfill this commitment, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme has been expanded twice in 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 increasing the number of ICDS Projects, AWCs and Mini-AWCs to 6284, 10.53 lakhs and 36829, respectively. In order to cover all the hitherto uncovered habitations, including tribal, across the country, the States/Union Territory Administrations were requested to undertake a micro level survey having regard to predominantly SC/ST/Minority habitations and furnish specific requirement of additional Projects/Anganwadi Centres/Mini-AWCs. The requirements have been incorporated in a composite proposal for the 3rd Phase of expansion of the ICDS Scheme.

State-wise details of sanctioned ICDS Projects and AWCs in tribal areas, till 31.3.2007 is given in the Statement annexed.

(c) Malnutrition varies widely across regions, states, age, gender and social groups, with relatively high levels in populous northern states, in rural areas and among tribal population.

(d) The overall decline in malnutrition amongst children below three years, as per findings of National Family Health Survey (NFHS), has been about 1% from NFHS-2 in 1998-99 to NFHS- 3 in 2005-06. Some States like Maharasthra, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Tripura and Andhra Pradesh having sizeable percentage of tribal population, have registered reduction in malnutrition levels.

As the problem of malnutrition is multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature it is being tackled through coordinated interventions of various Ministries/Departments in areas of food security, sanitation and safe drinking water, nutrition, family welfare and poverty alleviation.

As far as ICDS Scheme is concerned, the following steps have been taken in the recent past to combat malnutrition, including in the tribal areas of the country:
Doubling of financial norms for supplementary nutrition.

Sharing of 50% cost of supplementary nutrition with the States.

Constant emphasis on States to:
@ Ensure regular supply of supplementary nutrition as per schematic norms;
@ Ensure effective convergence of health nutrition, education and safe drinking water services under various programmes.